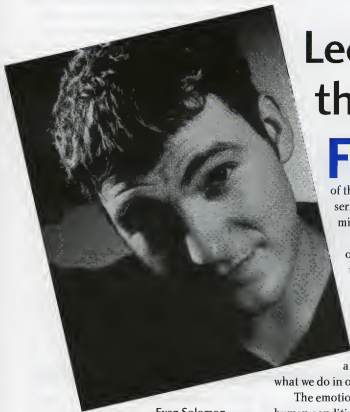


News



Evan Solomon

Lecture series probes the trends of our times

From the heat of war to the cool of high tech, the February program of the college's winter lecture series looks at two sides of our millennial times.

"We wanted to select issues of concern to people at the college and in society as a whole," says Al Budzin, series organizer and director of special projects in the Office of the President.

"The idea is to help create a learning community beyond what we do in our classrooms and labs."

The emotional extremes of the human condition will be searingly explored

February 18 in *"Out of Spite: Tales of Survival from Sarajevo."* The sold-out play is based on the letters of philosophy teacher Elma Softic, who chronicled the slow destruction of the city and life she knew through four years of fighting in Bosnia.

Her perceptions are brought to life by actor Cynthia Ashperger, who adapted the letters with director Damir Andrei. Audiences in areas as diverse as Berlin, Des Moines and Chicago have found it a moving depiction of the experience of war, with all its terror, anger, loss, wry humour – and the gritty determination to survive "out of spite."

On February 25, the focus shifts to the wired world when Evan Solomon speaks on *"Technology, Culture and Change: Dispelling the Hype of the Digital World."* The 30-year old Solomon has made a career of examining the forces affecting contemporary pop culture. His resumé includes a stint as a journalist in Asia and as a founding editor of *Shift*, the Canadian magazine of cultural change.

As host of CBC Newsworld's *"Futureworld,"* Solomon brought a wide-ranging curiosity and thoughtful intelligence to his interviews with philosophers, futurists and others. In the network's just-launched *Hot Type*, he is taking the same approach to the world of print communication – online and otherwise.

"The future is made up of 50 per cent hype and 50 per cent great things," Solomon has said, a judgment we can find out more about later this month.

Enrolment's up!

By mid-January, 866 people had registered to start a program here – a whopping 300 per cent increase over last year!

The big jump can be credited to more program offerings, an effective campaign to promote the winter semester and the many staff who pitched in to help applicants.

The extra help was certainly needed in November and early December when the postal strike prevented applications from being sent to the Ontario College Application Service (OCAS) in Guelph.

To remedy the situation, registrants dropped off their applications directly to the college or sent them by courier. The staff of the Registrar's Office then phoned applicants with admissions decisions or questions.

Even international student enrolment increased, despite the strike and Asia's economic turmoil. Most of the 28 new international students will be studying in Hospitality and Business programs.

President's Column



*"Know your history and you will always be wise."
— An Old African Saying*

This month is African Heritage Month (Black History Month), a tradition in Canada dating back to the 1950s and officially recognized by the Province of Ontario since 1978.

African Heritage Month is celebrated to honour the contribution African Canadians have made to all walks of life in this country and to recall important milestones in Black history. The choice of February evolved from the work of Dr. Carter G. Woodson, a noted African American author and scholar, who began the celebration for two purposes – to educate non-Black Americans about Black American culture and history, and to engender pride among African Americans. Woodson chose February because it marks the birthdays of President Abraham Lincoln, who signed the Emancipation Proclamation ending slavery, and Frederick Douglass, the noted African American abolitionist. Douglass, a former slave himself, met with

Lincoln on numerous occasions to urge action on behalf of his people.

Woodson (1875-1950) was a son of former slaves. He founded many organizations aimed at ensuring that all Americans had a better understanding of the history of African Americans. He was the premier historian to put forward the idea of African history as a form of cultural empowerment and emancipation for African Americans. In biographical accounts of Woodson's life, the point is frequently made that Woodson hoped that all people would celebrate their roots, and in doing so, would develop mutual respect for one another.

In Canada today, African Heritage Month is celebrated across the provinces. It gives all Canadians an opportunity to learn about the long history of people of African descent living in this country – a history rich in its diversity and one to be proud of.

George Brown's African Heritage Month committee has planned a variety of activities to run throughout February at each campus, including an arts market, drumming and dance presentations, historical displays, pubs featuring African Rhythm, videos, a CD launch, and more. I hope you will join with me in attending some of these events. Keep your eyes open for posters providing more details on these terrific events.

— FRANK SOROCHINSKY

*Background material for this article is from articles by Henry Martey Codjoe, Policy Consultant, Alberta Department of Education, and David Pitts, Staff Writer, USIA.

Bad weather conditions?

Find out if the college is open or closed before leaving home...

If you think George Brown College might be closed or classes cancelled due to weather conditions or other emergencies, here's how to find out:

Listen to the radio: George Brown College will let the following radio stations know if it is closing or cancelling classes by 6:00 a.m. of the day in question. These same stations will also know by 3:00 p.m. if evening classes are affected.

CBC Radio One (AM 740)	CHUM-FM (104.5)
CHFI-FM (98.1 FM)	CFNY (102.1 FM)
CHUM-FM (104.5)	CFRB 1010
680 News	Q107

Call the College: To find out if classes are running, call (416) 415-2000 (or toll-free 1-800-265-2002) from a touch tone phone and enter extension 3905.

A message with updated information will be available at this site everyday by 6:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Please note that information about the cancellation of specific classes is not available.

If you do not have access to a touch-tone phone, our Call Centre will know the status of classes or if the college is closed.

Call Centre: 415-2000 (or toll-free 1-800-265-2002).

Open: Weekdays 8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. (4:30 p.m. on Fridays).

Testing looks to the future

Testing and assessment at George Brown College may soon undergo some changes with its Assessment Centre working to bring an age-old practice more up-to-date.

"We're trying to move away from paper and pencil testing, towards a more flexible computer-based testing system," explains Educational Resources director John Hardy.

As part of a four-college consortium, George Brown is piloting a computerized student testing system called Compass. The new system can administer admission and placement tests in reading comprehension, math, and writing skills.

Flexibility is one of the great benefits of computerized testing, says Hardy. Instead of organizing a group testing session, tests can be administered one-on-one. Paper handling becomes a thing of the past and, since results are automatically tabulated, they're available as soon as the test is finished.

Compass also has diagnostic capabilities. In addition to test scores, students can get advice on areas for improvement. For placement purposes, the system can also make recommendations as to which class level is appropriate for a student.

With computerized testing a real possibility, it makes sense for students to be able to use the same test results in applying to any Ontario college. That's another project underway in the assessment area.

"We're trying to establish equivalencies between several testing instruments so students only have to take a placement or admission test once," Hardy says. Joining George Brown in this major research project are Sir Sandford Fleming, Humber, Sheridan, Seneca and Centennial colleges.

Seven major tests – many with subsections – are involved, including the College Adult Achievement Test (CATT) and the Computerized Placement Test (CPT). Scores from all of them must be obtained and cross-referenced and then comparisons done.

"We could see Compass used for placement testing for September 1998 admissions," Hardy says. However, due to the complexity of the equivalencies project, he estimates it likely won't be introduced for admissions testing until the January 1999 intake.

Way to Go! – George Brown Success Stories

George Brown to lead articulation model consortium

The Ministry of Education and Training (MET) has approved the proposal submitted by George Brown to develop a model for articulating apprentice and technician programs in the electrical and mechanical disciplines. George Brown will lead a consortium of six Ontario colleges in implementing the project along with representatives from MET Apprenticeship Client Services and MET Colleges Division.

Industry reps give generously

Reg Goulding, representative for the dental supply company IVOKLAR, made a generous donation to the Allied Health Facilities Renewal Campaign and then challenged his colleagues in the industry to match his donation. So far, 12 reps have accepted his challenge and he has asked them each to find two more contributors.

Fashion Forum symposium a great success

Fashion Chair Rosalie Starkey was Co-chair of a recent symposium on fashion careers which attracted more than 500 students, including dozens from George Brown. Fashion Forum, which was held at the Radisson Hotel on January 15, featured Fashion Television host Jeanne Becker as the event's keynote speaker. George Brown's Tiina Bayko was also there to moderate a panel discussion on the development of private labels by stores. Fashion Group International, a non-profit industry association of which Starkey is a member, sponsored the symposium.

Mike Vakalis gets Chief Examiner role

The Board of Dental Examiners of the State of Maine and the Clinical Dental Technicians Association in the UK have asked Professor Mike Vakalis (Denturism) to act as Chief Examiner for their respective professional exams. The State of Montana has also asked George Brown to set the annual exam for Montana denturists writing qualifying exams.

Bosnians on their way to George Brown

From March 1-15, the college will host eight leaders of various Bosnian non-governmental agencies. The Bosnians are participating in a training program organized by Canadian Feed the Children and George Brown College. During their visit they will have formal training sessions and meet with government officials and Canadian NGOs. Professors Mandy Bonisteel (Assaulted Women and Children's Counsellor Advocate Program) and Lynne Brennan (Community Worker Program) are co-ordinating the event.

George Brown College to host Health Care consultation

Frank Sorochinsky and the Faculty of Community Services and Health Sciences and Employer Services will host a consultation entitled "The Emerging Training Needs of Front-Line Health Care Workers" on March 5. This is an invitational event. Forty key leaders from the hospital sector, the government and the community colleges will attend the event and map out a training plan to support changes in Ontario's health care system.

Bill Fallis new CASAE president

Bill Fallis, professor in the Community Worker program, was elected to a two-year term as national president of the Canadian Association for Studies in Adult Education. CASAE plays a lead role in promoting research in adult education and dialogue among adult educators in Canada.

New lab for Sign Language Interpreter program

Construction will begin shortly on the fourth floor of St. James campus to install a new language laboratory for the Sign Language Interpreter program. The lab will be equipped with 20 state-of-the-art stations from Sony and should be operative by March 1998.

Students weather ice storm aftermath

George Brown students who are also Canadian army reservists put their college assignments aside during January to pitch in after devastating ice storms cut power in eastern Ontario. Graphic design students Peter Hartwig of the Toronto Scottish Regiment and James Calder of the Queen's York Rangers worked with other volunteers in Lanark County near Ottawa and other parts of eastern Ontario.

Continued on pg. 4

George Brown People

Leaving the college is Dan Borowec, Chairperson of the Hospitality & Tourism Centre.

Deal yourself in on February 27!

Get out your four-leaf-clover, horseshoe and rabbit's foot – the second annual Casino and Dance for Student Bursaries is coming up February 27!

The evening's highlight, a silent auction, will feature dozens of imaginative prizes. The goodies include vacation packages at Caribbean resorts and dinner parties at some of Toronto's top restaurants (including our own Siegfried's).

George Brown faculties and departments are all pitching in to round up prizes for the event. "Everyone is getting on the bandwagon," says Ellen deBoer, public relations officer for the Hospitality & Tourism Centre.

A squad of some 25 students is being specially trained by Hospitality & Tourism instructor Nelson Reynolds to serve as blackjack dealers for the night.

Students will also be handling the "graze-around" food stops, each presenting a different cuisine: Italian, Chinese, Aboriginal, French and dessert. Entertainment will be by the band, City Limits, featuring the college's own Herb Mueller.

Sponsors of the evening include the George Brown Student Association, the Hospitality Club, the Junior Escoffier Club, the George Brown College Foundation and the Hospitality & Tourism Centre.

All departments and faculties taking part will get a share of the event's proceeds for their students. Funds raised will be matched by the Ontario Student Opportunity Trust Fund.

Tickets are \$25 per person, and tables for eight can be booked. "It's a wonderful opportunity for a group outing," says deBoer. "Fidelity Investments, for example, is arranging an alumni table for employees who've graduated from George Brown."

For tickets or more information, call deBoer at 415-2239. To contribute an auction or card draw prize, call her or use the special e-mail address: auction@gbrownc.on.ca.

"Women and Work" photo exhibit at Nightingale

The Faculty of Community Services has sponsored a display of historical photographs of women at work in Canada's fields, homes, factories, and schools. "Never Done: Women and Work," is part of a collection assembled over the past 10 years by teacher Noel Young.

"I'm hoping the emotional power of the photographs will develop students' interest in history," says Young.

Some of the photographs have already been incorporated into class offerings by teachers at Nightingale Campus where the photographs are displayed on the second floor.

Young worked with Pam Doyle, Lynn Wilson and Kay Oxford to create the exhibit. The Faculty is now raising money to create permanent displays spaces for both the Nightingale and St. James campuses.

George Brown child care journal goes national

IDEAS, a George Brown-published journal about child care, is going national. The twice-yearly "journal of emotional well-being in Child Care" has launched a country-wide subscription campaign after receiving positive response over the past four years from the Ontario child care community. College staff involved include Marie Goulet as Managing editor, who also sits on its 10-person editorial board along with Early Childhood Education and Child Care Services Manager Marjorie McColl. Kay Oxford of Academic Resources is copy editor. The journal's new national advisory committee has representatives from as far east as St. John's, Newfoundland, and as far west as Victoria, B.C.

Karen Chandler creates scholarship fund

Karen Chandler has created a scholarship fund in her mother's name which will benefit

students enrolled full-time in a George Brown Community Services program.

As reported in the January 1998 issue of City College News, Chandler was recently honoured with a national Early Childhood Education award which she dedicated to her mother. She has now created the Sarah Gordon Scholarship Fund which celebrates her 88 year old mother whom Chandler describes as "the epitome of an independent, giving person."

The goal of the scholarship is to provide full financing, including tuition, books, living expenses, daycare costs and transportation, to at least one student in the first year of operation and up to 25 students after the first five years. Students must demonstrate financial need and be a community volunteer. Students who are parents will be given preference.

The fund is being administered by a board separate from the College. For more information on the scholarship, contact Rod McCormack at (416) 465-8879.

CALENDAR

Feb. 1 Board of Governors' meeting, 5:30 p.m. Call ext. 4472 if you plan to attend.

Feb. 11 & 18 Microsoft Word for Windows – Intermediate. 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. (Fully booked).

Feb. 13 Windows 95 – Introduction. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bell Lab, Casa Loma. (Fully booked).

THE 11TH ANNUAL TEACHING AND LEARNING INNOVATIONS CONFERENCE

The conference will be held May 20 and 21, 1998 at the University of Guelph, is inviting proposals for papers and posters. The conference theme is "Teaching and Learning: Making the Link," and presentation submissions should focus on innovative ways in which learning occurs, how it can be measured and how it can be improved. The deadline for submissions is February 16, 1998. For more information contact Ruth Gillespie at:

Telephone: (519) 824-4120, ext. 3106
Fax: (519) 821-8530 or
e-mail: ruthgill@uoguelph.ca.

Visit their website at
<http://www.tss.uoguelph.ca/tli.html>.

Feb. 18 Band Root 2 Fruit celebrates its new CD with an appearance at the St. James Student Centre, 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. For more information, call ext. 4472.

Feb. 18 GBC Lecture Series: One-woman play "Out of Spite: Tales of Survival from Sarajevo," based on the book by Elma Solita, adapted by actor Cynthia Ashperger and director Damir Andrei. 12:30 p.m., George Brown Theatre Building, 530 King St. E. at River St. (Fully booked).

Feb. 24 Board of Governors' Finance and Property Committee meeting, 5:30 p.m. Call ext. 4472 if you plan to attend.

Feb. 25 GBC Lecture Series: Journalist and broadcaster Evan Solomon speaks on "Technology, Culture and Change: Dispelling the Hype of the Digital World." 11 a.m., Auditorium, 160 Kendal Ave., Casa Loma.

Feb. 25 Board of Governors' Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting, 5:30 p.m. Call ext. 4472 if you plan to attend.

Feb. 27 Second annual Casino and Dance for Student Bursaries, 7 p.m. to midnight, Siegfried's Dining Room, 300 Adelaide St. E. Live band, prizes and refreshments. Tickets \$25 per person; reserved tables available. Contact Ellen deBoer at ext. 2239.

March 4 Benefit dinner for George Brown Foundation, in honour of retiring executive director Brian Cooper. Tickets \$100 per person. Contact Ellen deBoer at ext. 2239.

March 11 Board of Governors' meeting, 5:30 p.m. Call ext. 4472 if you plan to attend

We welcome success stories about you or your colleagues. Deadline for submissions for the March issue is February 15.

City College News is published monthly for staff and friends of George Brown College by the Communications and Marketing Department.

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 George Brown
The City College